



# GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service  
United States Department of Agriculture



JANUARY 4, 1999

## Upcoming Events...

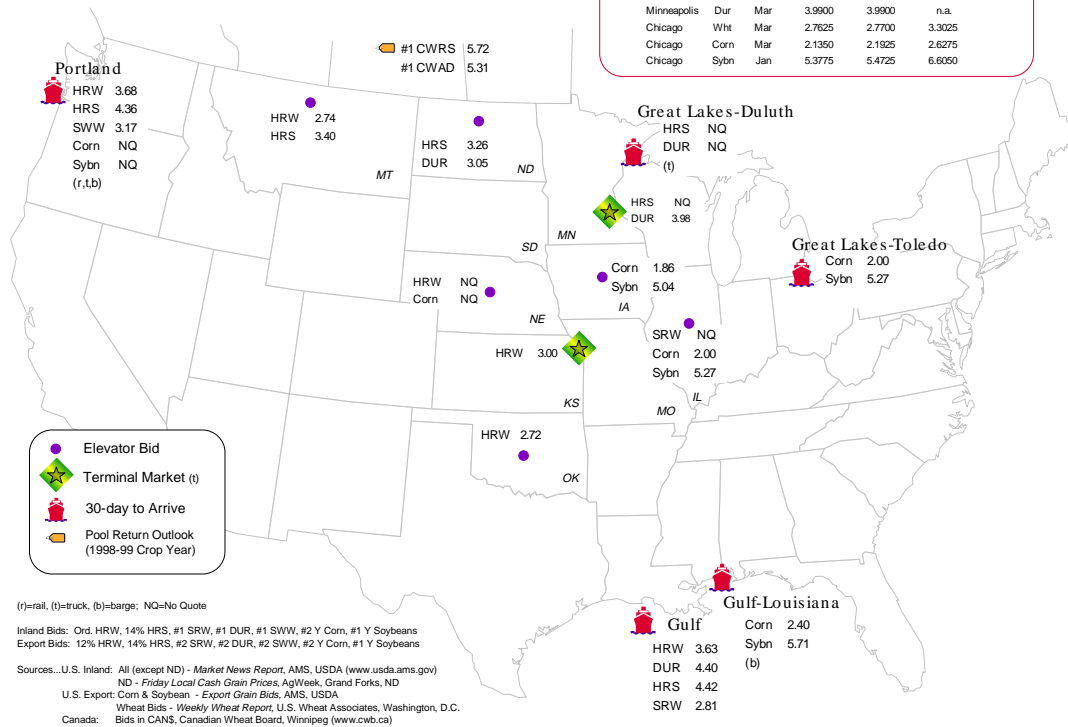
Jan. 10-14	Transportation Research Board 78th Annual Meeting	Washington, DC	202-334-3214 (ph)
Jan. 10-14	American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting	Albuquerque, NM	847-685-8600 (ph)
Jan. 12	Illinois River Carriers' Association (IRCA) Meeting	Willowbrook, IL	Luke Moore 502-898-8818 (ph) luke@apex.net
Jan. 19-22	Canadian International Farm Equipment Show	Toronto, Canada	705-741-2536 (ph) 705-741-2539 (fax)
Jan. 26-27	American Assoc. of Port Authorities (AAPA) Gov't Relations Conference	Washington, DC	703-684-5700 (ph) 703-684-6321 (fax) info@aapa-ports.org
Feb. 7-10	U.S. Grains Council 39th Annual Membership Mtg. and Intl. Value- Enhanced Grain Conf. and Trade Show	Orlando, FL	202-789-0789 (ph) 202-898-0522 (fax) grains@grains.org
Feb. 8-10	Ag. Equipment Technology Conference '99	Louisville, KY	616-429-0300 (ph)
Feb. 18-20	National Corn Growers Association/ American Soybean Assoc. Convention	Albuquerque, NM	417-232-4999 (ph) corninfo@ncga.com
Feb. 22-23	Ag. Outlook Forum	Washington, DC	202-314-3462 (ph) 202-479-6801 (fax) www.usda.gov/agency/oce/ waob/agforum.htm
Mar. 21-23	National Grain & Feed Annual Convention	San Francisco, CA	202-289-0873 (ph) 202-289-5388 (fax) www.ngfa@ngfa.org
Mar. 22-24	AAPA Spring Conference	Washington, DC	703-684-5700 (ph) 703-684-6321 (fax) info@aapa-ports.org

**Note:** Due to the holiday, some report data was unavailable and, therefore, has remained unchanged. Updated information will be included in the January 11, 1999 report.

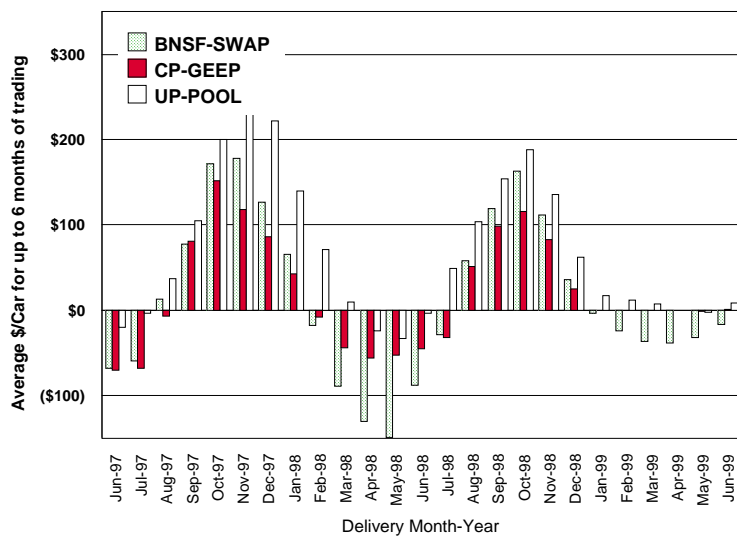
This report is prepared by Karl Hacker and Karla Martin, Agricultural Economists, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, formerly of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202) 690-1707. This report can be found on the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm). E-mail comments to [Nick\\_Marathon@USDA.gov](mailto:Nick_Marathon@USDA.gov).

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## Grain Bid Summary

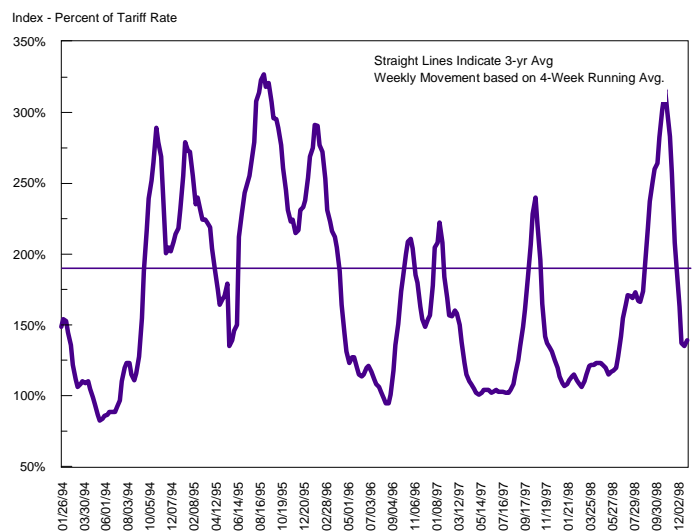


## Secondary Rail Market Bids



See the Grain Trax page at [www.ugpti.org](http://www.ugpti.org) for more graphs of rail premiums.

### Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River



<b>Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings</b>				
Delivery for:	Jan-99		Mar-99	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
<b>BNSF-COT</b>	5,303	55%	5,764	6%
<b>UP-GCAS</b>	5,000	18%	5,000	10%
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

**Secondary Rail Car Market**

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

		<b>Delivery Period</b>		
		Jan-99	Feb-99	Mar-99
BNSF-COT	no offer	\$0	\$(31)	\$(32)
CP-GEEP	\$1	\$(1)	\$(1)	\$(2)
UP-Pool	\$1	\$(1)	\$(4)	\$(4)

Source: T&amp;M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only &amp; are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

**Railroad Car 'Auction' Results**

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Jan-99	Mar-99	Apr-99
COT/N. Grain	no offer	no offer	no offer
COT/S. Grain	no offer	no offer	no offer
GCAS/Region 2	\$3	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 4	\$2	no bid	no bid

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com), [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com),  
(COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)**Southbound Barge Freight Nominal Values\***

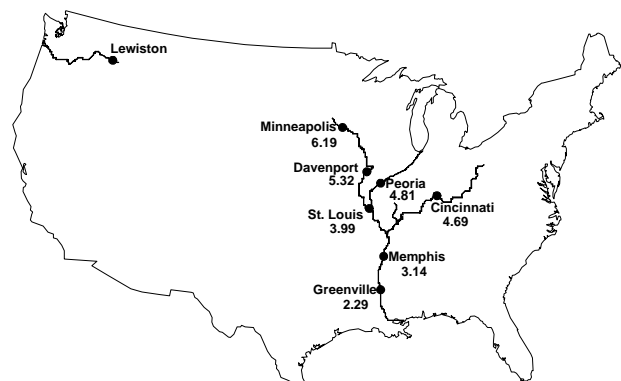
Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
12/28/98	Illinois	twk	140
		March	140
	St. Louis	twk	110
	Mid Miss	30 day open	150

Summary Of Daily Barge Trades Reported To St. Louis Merchants Exchange.

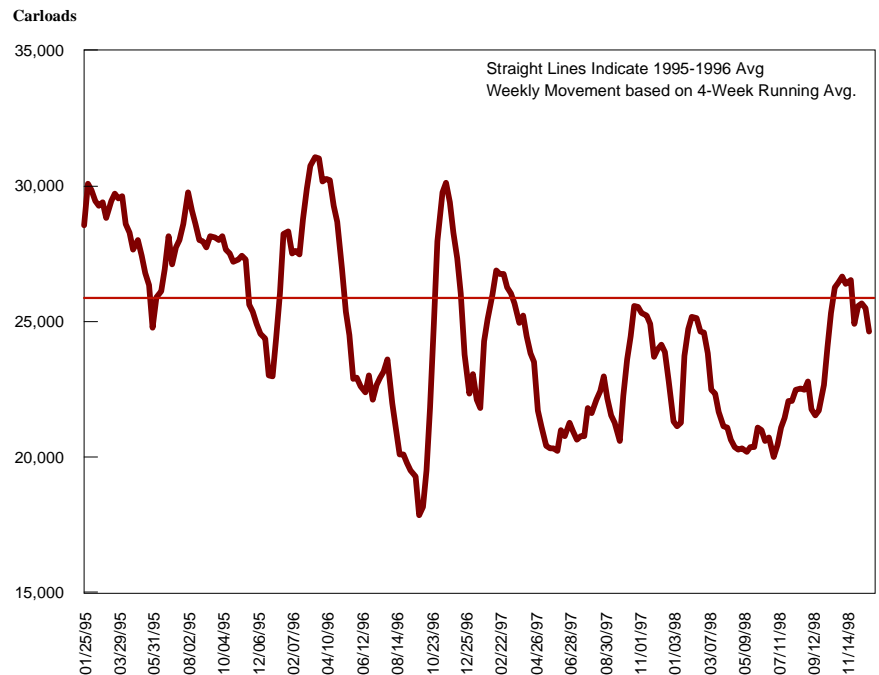
twk=this week  
nwk=next week**Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates**

	12/30/98	12/23/98	Jan. '98	Mar. '98
Twin Cities	nq	nq	nq	n/a
Mid-Mississippi	nq	nq	nq	n/a
Illinois River	161	n/a	178	150
St. Louis-Cairo	116	n/a	110	114
Lower Ohio	120	n/a	116	122
Cairo-Memphis	99	n/a	99	106

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA  
nq- no quote**Barge Benchmark Tariff Rates  
Est. 1976 - 'Tariff No. 7'**

## Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
12/12/98	26,162
12/19/98	26,086
12/26/98	17,572
Year to Date - 1998	1,165,866
Year to Date - 1997	1,187,671
Total 1997	1,199,995
Total 1996	1,235,123
Source: American Association of Railroads	



## Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Carloads

	East				West			Canada	
	Conrail	CSXT	IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
12/26/98	489	2,048	1,512	1,710	6,071	611	5,131	1,689	2,679
This Week Last Year	621	2,778	1,351	2,786	8,466	857	7,376	3,284	5,625
1998 YTD	39,730	124,499	76,692	129,338	424,567	33,955	337,085	112,457	213,608
1997 YTD	29,463	116,557	79,534	122,778	422,578	34,265	374,787	169,833	269,431
1996 Total	31,733	111,509	48,695	131,568	432,687	30,009	439,865	129,714	181,387
1995 Total	37,851	133,755	61,612	139,043	410,274	34,393	447,786		

Source: American Association of Railroads

## Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

December 1998

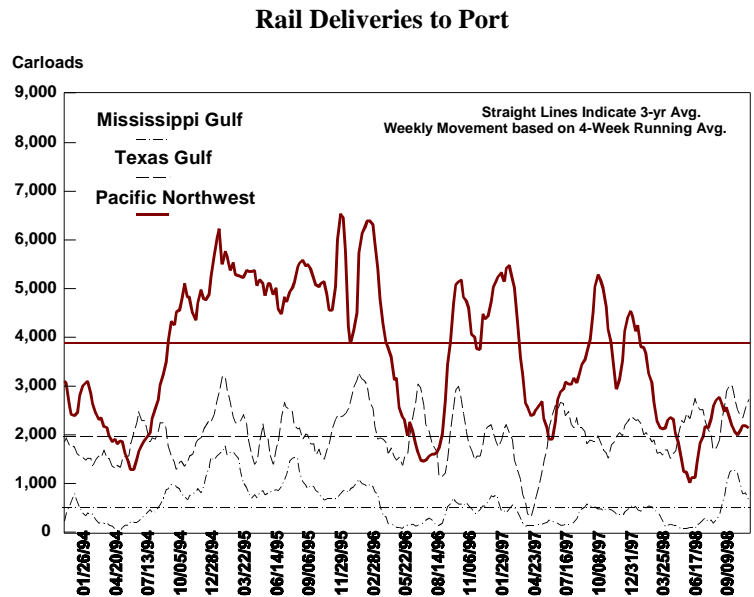
Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
12/01/98	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,150	\$19.51	\$0.65
12/01/98	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,235	\$38.43	\$1.27
12/01/98	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,850	\$16.79	\$0.56
12/01/98	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,226	\$38.35	\$1.27
12/01/98	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,205	\$38.16	\$1.26
12/01/98	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,865	\$22.87	\$0.80
12/01/98	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,100	\$24.74	\$0.87
12/01/98	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,485	\$19.83	\$0.70
12/01/98	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,330	\$30.22	\$1.00
12/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,030	\$27.50	\$0.91
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

Source: www.bnsf.com

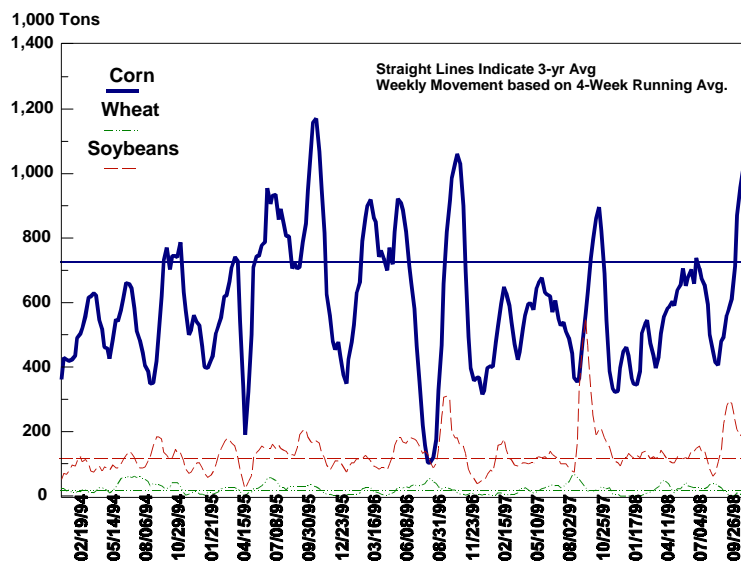
Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat &amp; Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

<b>Rail Deliveries to Port</b>				
Carloads				
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
12/09/98	669	2,689	2,033	466
12/16/98	1,128	3,052	1,999	622
12/23/98	464	2,992	2,100	545
YTD 1998	23,422	113,382	128,881	12,357
YTD 1997	19,827	90,868	192,808	8,983
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	195,953	9,147
Total 1996	25,899	113,804	199,709	11,304
Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA				

\*Note: Data prior to 10/28/98 has been revised. More recent data has been estimated.



## Barge Movements - Locks 27



## Barge Grain Movements

for week ending 12/26/98

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
1,000 Tons				
<b>Mississippi River</b>				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	0	0	0	0
Winfield, MO (L25)	0	0	0	0
Alton, IL (L26)	600	0	136	735
Granite City, IL (L27)	600	2	147	749
<b>Illinois River (L8)</b>	577	0	127	703
<b>Ohio (L52)</b>	23	2	35	112
<b>Arkansas (L1)</b>	0	16	20	36
1998 YTD	30,824	2,413	8,756	45,051
1997 YTD	29,685	2,689	9,584	45,315
Total 1997	29,685	2,689	9,584	45,315
Total 1996	34,210	2,348	8,297	48,963

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.

Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

**U.S. Export Balances\*** (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<u>Wheat</u> <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
12/24/98	1,521	179	872	649	244	3,464	8,226	4,603	16,293
This Week Year Ago	1,578	713	903	872	214	4,281	6,647	5,162	16,090
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
98/99 YTD	6,318	1,254	4,028	3,565	465	15,629	14,689	9,345	39,663
97/98 YTD	5,848	3,601	3,855	3,408	858	17,570	12,025	13,070	42,665
96/97 Total	2,595	1,643	1,432	1,240	361	7,271	43,991	24,273	75,535
95/96 Total	9,867	6,792	8,918	6,443	897	32,917	55,769	23,550	112,236

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date (fas.usda.gov) Crop Year: Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn &amp; Soybeans=9/01-8/31

**Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons**

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
12/31/98	215	0	0	60	630	517	12	0	9
1998 YTD **	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392
1997 YTD **	11,156	9,728	1,764	6,349	28,183	18,658	5,106	1,001	1,014
% of Last Year	97%	45%	37%	80%	111%	80%	142%	56%	137%
1997 Total	11,156	9,728	1,764	6,349	28,183	18,658	5,106	1,001	1,014

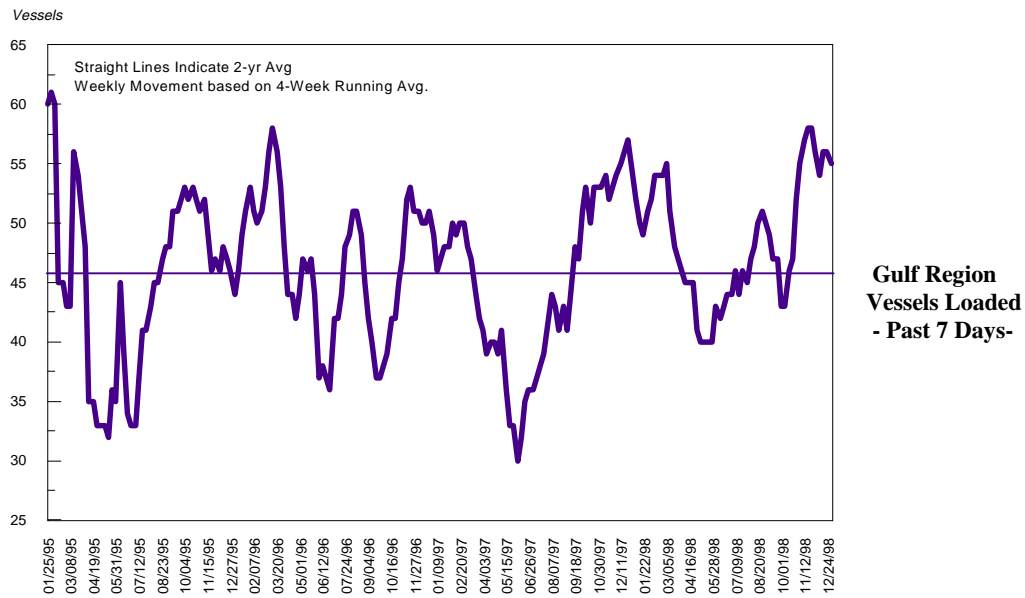
Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service \*Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago \*\* YTD-Year-to-Date

**Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections**

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

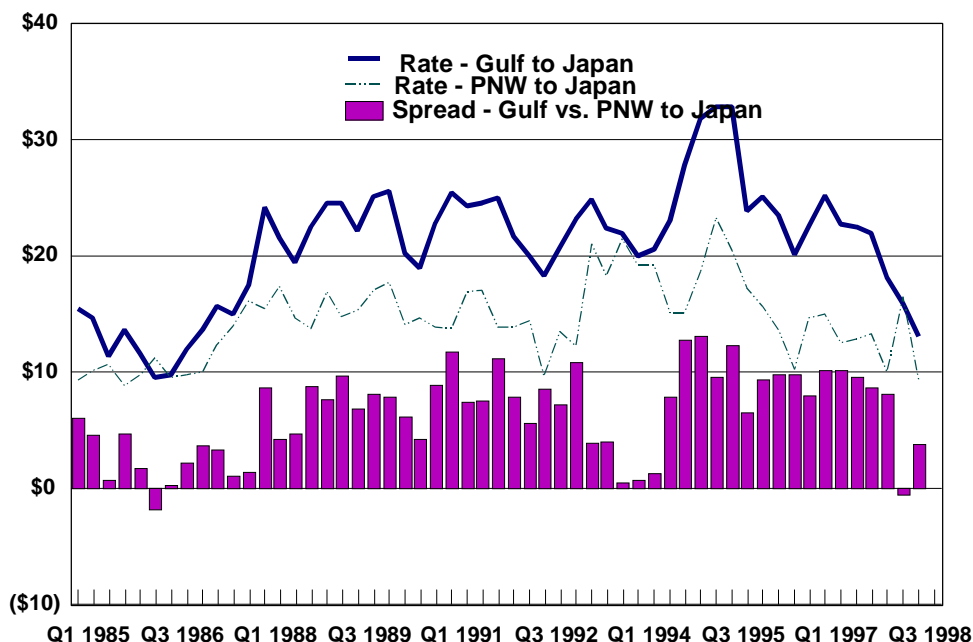
	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 12/17/98			
Vancouver	1,855	278	103
Prince Rupert	498	0	0
Prairie Direct	242	171	60
Thunder Bay	295	72	73
St. Lawrence	824	655	0
1998 YTD Exports	4,022	1,185	235
1997 YTD Exports	7,290	1,696	1,075
% of Last Year	55%	70%	22%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission \*Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago \*\* YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31



Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels									
	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
		Loaded	Due Next		Loaded	Due Next		Loaded	Due Next
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>
12/24/98	19	56	42	14			n/a	n/a	n/a
12/31/98	30	48	55	12			n/a	n/a	n/a
1997 Range	(11..52)	(25..61)	(31..89)						
1996 Range	(17..46)	(38..61)	(27..88)						
1997 Avg	33	45	58						
1996 Avg	38	46	62						
1995 Avg	31	46	61						
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA									

US\$/Metric Ton

Quarterly Ocean  
Freight Rates**Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates**

Average Rates &amp; Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	1998 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	1997 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	% Change		1998 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	1997 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	% Change
<b>Gulf to</b>				<b>Pacific NW to</b>			
Japan	\$13.17	\$22.55	-42%	Japan	\$9.35	\$12.92	-28%
Mexico	\$16.33	\$14.47	13%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea		\$19.23	
Venezuela	\$10.30	\$13.78	-25%				
N. Europe	\$8.85	\$13.23	-33%	<b>Argentina to</b>			
N. Africa	\$13.87	\$15.44	-10%	N. Europe	\$12.15	\$14.83	-18%
				Japan	\$16.21	\$25.56	-37%

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing/AMS/USDA

**Ocean Freight Rates - week ending 12/26/98**

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Long Ton)
Gulf	Colombia	Corn	Dec./Jan.	22,000	\$12.80
Gulf	Europe	Heavy Grain	Dec./Jan.	55,000	\$7.50-7.95
Gulf	Northern Europe	Heavy Grain	January	55,000	\$8.09
Gulf	Indonesia	Heavy Grain	Dec./Jan.	30,000	\$17.35-18.00
Gulf	Egypt	Heavy Grain	January	55,000	\$8.50
Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grain	January	40,000-54,000	\$12.70-13.25
Gulf	Morocco	Heavy Grain	January	30,000	\$16.00
Vancouver (Canada)	Pakistan	Wheat	January	50,000	\$13.00
River Plate	Tunisia	Meals	January	15,000	\$22.00
Ukraine	So. Korea	Heavy Grain	Prompt	50,000	\$11.50

Source: Maritime Research Inc.